

Testimony Concerning HB 6187 and SB 1128
Judiciary Committee, April 1st, 2015
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Member Connecticut Votes for Animals

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my SUPPORT of HB 6187, An Act Concerning Court Proceedings And The Protection Of Animals and SB 1128, An Act Concerning The Use Of Accelerated Rehabilitation In The Case Of Animal Abuse .

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6187, which would establish a process for appointing an advocate for an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding and in SUPPORT of SB 1128, which would prevent persons charged with committing animal abuse from using accelerated rehabilitation.

I have attended many animal abuse cases in the last 20 years and have never felt that any of the abusers received a sentence that would deter them from harming again. In many cases they received nothing more than accelerated rehabilitation, or as far as I am concerned, no consequences at all for their abuse. How is it that the life of an innocent animal means so little to our society? I have had friends, knowing how upsetting these cases are to me ask why I go. I tell them because someone has to care, we can not all turn our backs, hoping someone else will do something to save them and prevent it from happening again. I have listened with tears in my eyes of those precious souls tortured, drowned, kicked, stabbed, strangled, thrown from porches/stairs and one dog who had holes drilled into his head while trapped in a cage.

I have stopped trying to understand what type of human could possibly do such things because these individuals are not like you or I. They lack any kind of moral character or compassion. I also have witnessed several of these abusers come to court with their children. This too showed what kind of person they were. They and their lawyers chose to expose their babies and young children to court proceedings that were so upsetting, so that they might possibly obtain sympathy because they had children. I prayed those children were not the victims of abuse also. I even watched as one accused borrowed a suit jacket from someone in court in hopes that maybe the fact that he drilled a hole in a trapped dogs head and killed him would appear less upsetting if he had a jacket on.

One individual that had not only killed a neighbors cat by kicking it, (in front of young child) but also injured a police dog, eventually went to jail for causing the death of two people in a car accident. Two additional people were also injured in that same accident. I often wonder, had we taken his abuse of the animals more seriously and had he been in jail, would those individuals be alive today?

We MUST take these cases more seriously and someone MUST speak up for them. This is why I am a proud member of Connecticut Votes for Animals where we speak for those that can not speak for themselves.

I am so opposed to accelerated rehabilitation for animal abuse, since I myself have been the victim of the use of accelerated rehabilitation where I felt it should not have been offered. I was the victim of a car accident, in which the other driver who hit me was drunk, speeding, went through a red light, with no lights on at night,

on the wrong side of an intersection. My car was totaled, I will live the rest of my life with a plate and screws in my neck and this man has no record what so ever. I consider myself lucky to be alive.

I beg you here today please do not allow this abuse to continue. We must not only speak up for those abused, but we must make sure the sentence is a serious one, accelerated rehabilitation must no loner be granted in animal abuse cases.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and please help SUPPORT this important piece of legislation so Connecticut can be a state that is a leader for the rights of innocent animals.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rudnick
East Berlin, CT.